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GENERAL

1. Views on UN action in Korea--US Representative Gross at the UN has been informed by his British and French colleagues (Jebb and Chauvel) that the continental Western European delegations share with the UK the tremendous apprehension that the US is committing Western Europe to the conduct of war in the Far East at an impossible time and under the most difficult possible strategic conditions. Both Jebb and Chauvel felt it essential that the UN proceed with great caution, indicating that the General Assembly should go no further at present than to request the withdrawal of Chinese Communists from Korea. They urged that the military situation be stabilized along a defensive line, perhaps at the narrow waist of the Korean peninsula, before further action is taken. Both delegates expressed their belief that the UN would be in a better position to take stronger action after the Chinese Communists had defied a GA resolution along the lines of that passed by the SC calling for Chinese withdrawal. Jebb declared that in the event of such defiance, the "issue would then indeed be a question of war or peace" and he could see no way other than to follow the matter through to its logical conclusion.

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2. Canadian reaction to Korean situation--US Embassy Ottawa has learned that the majority of the Canadian Cabinet in a day-long discussion of Communist aggression in Korea shared the opinion current in some European capitals that General MacArthur should be replaced. The general attitude at the meeting was one of gloom, with no member feeling that Canada could make any contribution to improve the situation. There was no discussion of the possibility of raising more Canadian troops.

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STATE review(s) completed.

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3. Spaak's views on European rearmament--US Ambassador Murphy in Brussels considers it unfortunate that Socialist leader Spaak, in a recent speech before the Belgian chamber, endorsed the Pleven Plan as the solution to the problem of German rearmament. Reporting that Spaak described the plan as constructive and declared that technical military considerations must not be allowed to obscure US understanding of its merits as the true "European solution" to the problem, Murphy expresses the view that Spaak was undoubtedly subjected to French Socialist influence at the Strasbourg meeting of the Council of Europe. Murphy adds that the attitude of the Belgian Socialists toward European defense, already unsatisfactory, will probably become worse as a result of Spaak's speech.

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EUROPE

4. GERMANY: Analysis of views on rearmament--The US High Commission in Germany, in making an analysis of current German opinion regarding rearmament and Germany's future role in Europe, reports that "substantial sections" of the West German population remain undecided on the question of rearmament while some elements are "definitely hostile." The Commission points to the results of recent elections, in which the Socialists stressed the anti-rearmament issue and made definite gains, as partial evidence of this attitude. Further evidence is found in the West German interpretation that US military commitments in the Far East reduce possibilities for gaining real security through Western defense. From these doubts springs a defeatist tendency which is often voiced in the expression, "we've had enough."

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The Commission considers that, given this climate of opinion, it is especially timely to look for ways to induce the Germans to take a more positive stand and declares that the most promising opportunity for this lies in European political integration. Substantial enthusiasm for integration already exists in Germany and early progress in the direction of European union, particularly if strongly supported by the US, would result in a boost to German morale, a much more favorable attitude toward defense efforts, and an increased willingness to endure interim burdens. Such progress at an early date would have favorable political effects within Germany and would be a "realistic" means of tying Germany to the West at a time when German receptiveness to this concept is at a peak. The Commission concludes that West German integration into a continental political union could serve as a rallying point, provided that this union were understood to be the nucleus organization which would be open to future membership by a united Germany.

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FAR EAST

5. CHINA: Military preparations reported in Canton--US Legation Saigon transmits a report of extensive military preparations in Canton, including large-scale evacuation of women and children, construction of air raid shelters and slit trenches, and the presence in unprecedented numbers of Soviet pilots and ground personnel at airfields on the city's outskirts. According to the Legation's informant, the Cantonese populace is extremely depressed at the prospect of early general warfare and privately critical of the Chinese Government's increasingly bellicose policies.

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THE AMERICAS

6. COLOMBIA: Dispute with Peru over custody of Haya--
US Ambassador Beaulac in Bogota expresses his agreement with the Colombian Foreign Minister's estimate concerning future developments in the Peruvian-Colombian dispute over the custody of Haya de la Torre. The Foreign Minister reportedly fears that the Peruvian Government, upon receipt of a Colombian note rejecting the Peruvian demand, will: (a) immediately break relations with Colombia; (b) require the immediate departure of Colombian representatives; and (c) take physical custody of Haya.

Meanwhile, the Department of State has expressed to Ambassador Tittmann in Lima the serious concern of the US over Peru's intransigence in this matter. The Department believes that the parties concerned have not exhausted all possible means of peaceful solution and has requested Ambassador Tittmann to transmit to President Odria the suggestion that every effort be made by both sides to reach a peaceful solution through any means available.

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